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School Committee minutes 05/11/2004

THE ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2004

Present: Paul Schlichtman, Chair Joani LaMachia
Jeff Thielman, Vice Chair Suzanne Owayda
Barbara Goodman Sue Sheffler

Superintendent: Kay Donovan
CFO Rob Addelson @8:50
Asst. Supt. Joanne Gurry
Sp. Ed. Director: Marilyn Bisbicos

Absent: Martin Thrope

Mr. Schlichtman called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm and requested a moment of silence in remembrance of Norman Thrope, father of Committee Member Martin Thrope

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Before the start of public participation Mr. Schlichtman reviewed the rules under public participation policy BEDH taking note that "Speakers may offer such objective criticisms of school operations and programs as concern them, but in public session the committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel nor against any member of the school community".

" Fred Bernardin, Dallin parent spoke relative to an ongoing situation in his son's kindergarten class and his belief that corrective action has not been implemented.

" Ted Packer APS school parent requested that the School Committee allow students to bicycle to their elementary school; currently it is allowed at the high school and the middle school. Mr. Packer stated that the issues of storage, responsibility, other items (skateboards) and safety could be resolved and requested that the School Committee create a formal policy.

" Michael Healy requested that the School Committee revisit the policy to prohibit skateboarding on school property especially in light of a new skateboard park the Symmes site.

Mr. Schlichtman requested a motion to enter into executive session

On a motion by Ms. Owayda seconded by Mr. Thielman it was
Voted to enter executive session in order to receive information/counsel from the Schools' attorney relative to pending litigation; upon return to open session the Committee will resume the regular meeting. Roll Call: Unanimous
Executive Session 7:50 – 8:20 PM

SECRETARY'S REPORT

" Correspondence -received

Approval of Minutes:

" By unanimous consent the committee approved the regular meeting minutes of:
February 24, 2004, March 9 & March 23, 2004, the Organizational Meeting & Regular meeting minutes of April 13, 2004.

By unanimous consent the Committee approved the executive session minutes of:
February 24, 2004, April 13 & April 28, 2004. The minutes of March 9, 2004 were approved and held.

AHS COSTA RICAN ADVENTURE

AHS Science teacher Don Bockler gave a power point presentation of the February Costa Rican trip. Ten AHS students and four adults attended.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Warrant Approval

By unanimous consent the Committee approved warrant article # 04145 in the amount of \$240,449.77.

School Choice- Supt. Donovan requested that the School Committee vote that APS not participate as a School Choice District for 2004-2005 school year due to current overcrowding in the schools. On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Thielman it was unanimously **Voted the Superintendent's recommendation that the Arlington Public Schools will not participate as a School Choice District for 2004-2005 school year.**

Contract Vote

Supt. Donovan informed Committee Members that the AEA voted to ratify the **Memorandum of Understanding** between the Arlington School Committee and the Arlington Education Association. After lawyers from both sides work out all of the contract language the final document will be presented to the Committee for a vote.

BUDGET

Supt. Donovan reported that the Finance Committee is working on ways to close the budget gap. The Finance Committee is reviewing the Special Education Circuit Breaker Law and the possibility that Arlington may receive up to double the amount of money received last year. The Superintendent informed the Finance Committee that the School Committee intends to request the full budget amount at Town Meeting. The next meeting will take place on May 21st at 10:30 am with the Town Manager, the Finance Committee, Board of Selectmen along with Kay and Rob Addelson.

Town Meeting Presentation

The Superintendent reported that no date has been set to approve the town budgets. The amendment for the FY04 budget to support the AEA contract may be postponed to a later Town Meeting date since there are still on going negotiations. Mr. Schlichtman will present the FY05 budget outlining the elements of the budget and what restorations are included. The budget will also reflect the grant money and special education money that APS brings back to the Town's general fund.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget

Mr. Thielman stated that at its last meeting the budget subcommittee discussed the proposal from Ed Nets, recommended that the School Committee vote the FY05 budget in the amount of \$32,432,612 and the budget timeline. Mr. Thielman stated that the next meeting is tentatively set for May 18th

Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment

Ms. Goodman reported that at its meeting the subcommittee reviewed 2nd & 3rd quarter student grades under the no prerequisite policy.

The Arlington Schools Foundation presented a proposal on an initial planning grant of up to \$200,000.00 to "re-ignite the ongoing process of achieving the district's vision of a student-centered comprehensive high school." The foundation will meet with administrators and department heads to discuss the proposal.

Dr. Gurry reported that the English department has requested support from the Administration on the problem of plagiarism at AHS. Turnitin.org is an internet service that scans papers submitted by students (via the internet) for plagiarism. The program also archives papers from year to year to prevent papers from being reused. The cost for a 1-year membership is approximately \$1000.00. The Committee supported the effort and requested feedback from other communities on their experience with the program

The subcommittee approved and recommended approved by the full committee for a **Virtual Learning Independent Study Option Pilot Program** for the 2004-2005 school year. It is a virtual technology course that will be taught by Ms. Callahan, the technology instructor at the high school.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman, seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously **Voted to approve the Virtual Learning Independent Study Option Pilot Program for the 2004-2005 school year.**

Benchmarks in Technology/Grades 6-8

The Committee will vote at the next meeting after receiving the Benchmark standards document.

Policy & Procedures

On a motion by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Ms. Owayda it was unanimously

Voted that the updated Statement of Objectives for Arlington High School replace the current "Statement of Objectives" (Policy ADA-E) in the Policy Manual

On a motion by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously

Voted that **Policy “ADA-E-1” (Goals for Education in Massachusetts)** be deleted.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously
Voted that **Policy “ADDA” (CORI Requirements)** be adopted by the School Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously
Voted that **Policy “ADDA-E” (CORI Requirements – Exhibit)** be adopted by the School Committee.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman, seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously
Voted that **Policy “BCB” (Conflict of Interest Policy)** be amended in Section 3 by adding the words “or other personnel designated by the Superintendent” after the words “Human Resource Officer” in lines one and three.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman and seconded it was unanimously
Voted that Policy “BDEA” - School Committee Subcommittees (Current Standing Committees) be amended as follows: Delete the word “six” in the first line of the first paragraph, and insert the word “five.”
Delete the “Maintenance and Operations” Subcommittee and the “Technology” Subcommittee.
Add the “Budget” Subcommittee. The new numbering will read as follows: 1) Policies and Procedures, 2) Curriculum and Instruction, 3) Specialized Student Services, 4) Community Relations, and 5) Budget.

Mr. Thielman reported that progress is being made on the life threatening allergies policy and protocol and that the subcommittee will continue work on it at its next meeting.

Redistricting Advisory Team

Ms. Sheffler announced that at its meeting on May 6th the advisory team agreed to move forward with redrawing district lines, to work with principals to define “real capacity” in school buildings and to meet with Special Education Director Marilyn Bisbicos to discuss special education needs in the schools over the next 5-10 years.

Supt. Search Committee

Ms. Owayda reported that only one firm (Future Management Systems) out of thirteen returned a proposal. Domenic Lanzillotti, the purchasing manager suggested calling each firm and re-issuing the RFP. Ms. Owayda called all the companies who were sent the RFP to confirm they received an RFP and to inquire as to why they did not respond.

On a motion by Ms. Owayda, seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was unanimously
Voted to re-issue the RFP for the superintendent search consultant.

The subcommittee also discussed the possibility of the school committee conducting its own search with the help of MASC depending on the results of the RFP.

Ms. Owayda reported out that after the April 10th subcommittee meeting she spoke with Steve Perriera for names of contacts and search firms that may have contacts in minority communities. Ms. Owayda called a number of people including Jean McGuire of METCO and the only search firms that were recommended were NESDEC and Future Management Systems.

Ms. Owayda also reported that there is a link on the school web site where agendas, approved minutes of the subcommittee meetings, and other information regarding the superintendent search will be posted.

Other Business

- .. The meeting of May 27th will begin at 7:30 PM
- .. Mr. Schlichtman requested that members indicate which appointments they are interested in serving on.
- .. Bids on the Dallin School have been received; the lowest bid was from Castagna Construction, the company the built the Peirce School.

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Sheffler it was
Voted to enter executive session for a personnel issue with no further business to be conducted upon return to open session except to adjourn.

Executive Session 9:45 – 10:10 pm

On a motion by Mr. Thielman seconded by Ms. Goodman it was unanimously

Voted to adjourn at 10:10 PM.

*Submitted by
Karen Tassone
Committee Secretary*